

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

NIC-01 INT-08 FEA-02 FPC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 FAA-00 DRC-01

IO-14 SY-10 TRSE-00 /166 W
----- 042855

R 261608Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3439

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL TURIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE

REF: ROME 2174 AND 2004

1. PREPARATIONS FOR NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE, CALLED FOR WEDNESDAY BY FEDERATION "CGIL, CISL, UIL" ARE COMPLETE. IN MOST OF COUNTRY, STRIKES PLANNED IN VIRTUALLY ALL ACTIVITIES FOR FOUR HOURS OR LESS.

2. IN LAZIO (PROVINCE WHICH INCLUDES ROME), HOWEVER, STRIKE SCHEDULED FOR 24 HOURS. GOVERNMENT OFFICES, BANKS, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ALL EXPECTED TO CLOSE DOWN. SCHOOLS MAY ALSO BE CLOSED, ALTHOUGH SOME STRONG INDEPENDENT UNIONS IN EDUCATION FIELD HAVE NOT
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ENDORSED STRIKE. SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS WILL BE OPEN. NO MAJOR

EFFECT ON ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND OTHER UTILITIES EXPECTED. AIRLINES IN ROME BOUND TO BE AFFECTED WITH SOME DELAYS, THOUGH NO TOTAL SHUTDOWN PLANNED.

3. KEY LABOR LEADERS SLATED TO ADDRESS RALLIES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. THUS, CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LAMA WILL SPEAK IN TURIN, CISL SECRETARY GENERAL STORI IN FLORENCE, UIL SECRETARY GENERAL VANNI IN GENOA AND CGIL DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL BONI IN ROME.

4. COMMENT: 24-HOUR STRIKE IN LAZIO AREA SUBJECT OF SOME CONTROVERSY BETWEEN CISL AND UIL NATIONAL LEADERS AND REGIONAL UNION CHIEFS. FORMER HAVE FAILED TO DISSUADE LAZIO OFFICIALS FROM GOING THROUGH WITH 24-HOUR STRIKE WHICH HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME AS PART OF SERIES OF REGIONAL ACTIONS SUCH AS FEBRUARY 7 STRIKES IN MILAN AND ELSEWHERE. EFFECT OF STRIKE LIKELY TO BE FELT IN ROME, PARTICULARLY THROUGH LACK OF TRANSPORT, ALTHOUGH MANY, OF COURSE, WILL NOT BE GOING TO WORK. NATIONWIDE, EFFECTS LIKELY TO BE NOMINAL, BOTH BECAUSE STRIKES OF SHORT DURATION AND ARE TO BE STAGGERED. UNIONS STILL AT PAINS TO INDICATED THAT STRIKE NOT RPT NOT DESIGNED TO TOPPLE RUMOR GOVERNMENT BUT RATHER AS GENERAL PROTEST AGAINST PRICE DEVELOPMENTS, AND AS SPUR TO STIMULATE GOVERNMENT TO ACT ON ITS PROMISES. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, GENERAL STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME02705
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974028/aaaaahri.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 2174 AND 2004
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005